



# California Legislative Black Caucus

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## Vice-Chair

Assemblymember Karen Bass

## Secretary

Assemblymember Curren Price

## Members

Senator Edward Vincent

Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter

Assemblymember Mike Davis

Assemblymember Mervyn M. Dymally

Assemblymember Sandré Swanson



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## STATE OF BLACK CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT EMPOWERING AND ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Sacramento, CA- Members of the Legislative Black Caucus announced their follow-up to the work on the “**State of Black California**” with a release of their 2008 Legislative Priorities in a press conference at the State Capitol Monday morning.

The eight priority bills sponsored by the Caucus covered a wide range of issues including health, public safety and employment and economic development, under the umbrella theme of “Empowering and Engaging our Communities.”

“It is crucial that we speak out as a unified voice for those who have no voice,” said Senator Ridley-Thomas, Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

“This year, in particular, the state budget is of paramount concern. As members of the Legislative Black Caucus we find ourselves having to confront a Governor’s budget that severely cuts education, our healthcare safety net and numerous other programs and services that assist the most vulnerable Californians.

“That is why the Legislative Black Caucus stands behind me today to call on our legislative leadership and the Governor to resolve and re-prioritize the needs of the state by seeking ways to **Empower and Engage Our Communities.**”

Speaker-elect Assembly Member Karen Bass, Caucus Vice-Chair and Policy Committee Chair discussed the Caucus’ non-legislative priorities which came out of town halls and community meetings held throughout the state for the State of Black California Report.

“Let me begin by stating that the structural deficit problem which remains at the root of our fiscal challenges calls for a comprehensive approach that will seriously review the role of state government and its relationship to local government: identify and establish priority services for health, education and transportation infrastructure, consider all the options available to achieve fiscal responsibility and address fundamental budget reform,” said Sen. Ridley-Thomas.

The Caucus also announced the establishment of an LBC Task Force to work toward the eradication of the “sub prime mortgage scourge. The LBC Task Force will look at legislation currently under consideration and offer up amendments that give priority to neighborhood stabilization in communities where foreclosures have reached a tipping point.

### Members of the Legislative Black Caucus

Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman (SD-26)

Assembly Speaker-elect, Karen Bass (AD-47)

Assembly Member Amina Carter (AD-62)

Assembly Member Mike Davis (AD-48)

Assembly Member Mervyn M. Dymally (AD-52)

Assembly Member Curren Price (AD-51)

Assembly Member Sandre Swanson (AD-16)

Senator Ed Vincent (SD-25)

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